(c) if so, the details of the other Highway Projects proposed to be executed through this SPV mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) One project relating to Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway is already under implementation through the Special Purpose Vehicle. Other projects which are proposed to be taken up relate to development of road connectivity to major ports in the country.

Second phase of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Express Way

2104. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) has awarded the second phase of the Ahmedabad-Vadodara Express way to a joint venture of LG Engineering and Construction Corporation and Nagarpura Construction Corporation (NCC) despite allegations of procedural violations and an on-going vigilance inquiry into it;

(b) whether the Chief Vigilance Officer, who is inquiring into the charges of cartelization and manipulation, had, in a letter dated 9th April, 2001, asked the Secretary concerned to held back the signing of this contract until the investigation was completed; and

(c) if so, Government's views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) A Complaint regarding awarding of contract for the second phase of the Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway was received. This was looked into by the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) who raised a few issues. The issues raised by the CVO were looked into by a Committee headed by the CVO himself and two other senior officers of the NHAI. Detailed examination by the Committee did not reveal any wrong doing. The contract was awarded to M/s. LG-NCC (JV).